

13 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Enemy Threat in III Corps

Attached is a quick rundown prepared by VAS/RAC on the current III Corps threat. All Vietnam figures tend to be spongy, as you know, and these are rounded estimates. The local force estimate, in particular, is subject to considerable variation.

In essence we are faced with an immediate and a latent threat in III Corps.

a. The immediate threat is composed of about 19,400 enemy troops positioned so they could attack with virtually no warning: The 5th and 9th VC divisions, three independent regiments and 7-10 local force "battalions".

b. The latent threat consists of forces that would probably require three to five days to move from their last known location -- which may not be their present actual location -- into an attack posture. This threat comprises two divisions (1st and 7th NVA) plus three independent regiments for a total of about 20,000.

The total III Corps threat (19,400 immediate plus 20,000 latent) amounts to about 39,400 men.

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1- Memo'd to FROM DCI ✓

COMPARATIVE UNIT STRENGTHS

	<u>ALLIES</u>			<u>VS</u>	<u>ENEMY</u>		
	<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Division</u>		<u>Battalion</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Division</u>
ARVN	600 - 800	2,800	11,000				
				VC	300 - 400	1,000 - 1,500	5,000 - 6,000
U.S. Marines	1,100	3,700	15,000				
				NVA*	500 - 600	2,000 - 2,400	8,000 - 10,000
U.S. Army	800 - 900	4,500	16,500				

* Normal strength of NVA units in SVN. Normal strength of NVA units in NVN are: Battalion - 700, Regiment - 3,000, Division - 12,500.